

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GULFPORT, FLORIDA  
POLICE CHIEF G. CURT WILLOCKS

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to G. Curt Willocks, the Police Chief of Gulfport, Florida, who retires after 18 years of service to the people of Gulfport and 38 years in law enforcement.

Chief Willocks was selected to lead the Gulfport Police Department in January 1991 and since then made his priority the development of modern professional standards in law enforcement. Under his leadership, the department earned state accreditation in 2000 and was re-accredited in 2003. He also led a department-wide effort to incorporate the newest technologies into the force's daily work. This includes bringing to Gulfport in-car, digital video recorders and computers.

Chief Willocks also worked hard to improve the process for selecting and training new officers, ensuring that all officers received training that exceeded the state's minimum requirements, and raising the education standards for applicants. More than one-third of all Gulfport officers have a bachelor's degree.

Before coming to Gulfport, Chief Willocks served for 20 years on the Boca Raton, Florida police force, retiring there as Deputy Chief. He has been active in many local and state-wide law enforcement organizations, including serving as President of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association, Chairman of the Pinellas County Police Standards Council, Director of the Florida Police Chief's Association, as a member of the Commission for Florida's Law Enforcement Accreditation, and on the Policy Board for the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute.

Madam Speaker, Chief Willocks has served our community and our state well. He has instilled pride and the highest standards in the officers who protect our residents, their families and their places of work with dedication and professionalism. It is my hope that my colleagues join me today in thanking Chief G. Curt Willocks for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND  
OPENING OF THE MCAULIFFE-SHEPARD DISCOVERY CENTER

**HON. PAUL W. HODES**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, New Hampshire today on its official opening. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center honors two of New Hampshire's pioneers—Christa McAuliffe, the winner of the NASA Teacher in Space Project, and

Alan Shepard, the first American in space. The incredible courage and curiosity of these two Granite Staters allowed for them to reach for the stars.

Christa McAuliffe taught middle school and high school students at Rundlett Junior High, Bow Memorial Middle School, and Concord High School between 1978 and 1985. On July 19, 1985, she was selected from a field of roughly 11,000 applicants to participate in NASA's Teacher in Space Project. Christa McAuliffe's mission on the flight was to teach schoolchildren lessons from space, and to encourage students to pursue careers in science and mathematics. Sadly, in 1986, her life was cut tragically short in the *Challenger* disaster, but her legacy of teaching children is remembered by her quote, "I touch the future. I teach."

Christa McAuliffe's incredible commitment to teaching is being honored by the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. This interactive center will be the first air and space center in New England. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center honors her life as well as her dedication to education.

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard piloted the *Freedom 7* mission and became the first American to travel into space. Alan Shepard also commanded the *Apollo 14* mission, and was the fifth person to walk on the moon. Following his incredible work with NASA for over 13 years, he has been honored in many different ways including the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, Naval Astronaut Wings, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is another wonderful way to honor his service to our country.

I would also like to applaud the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's dedication to green building and energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy, buildings are responsible for 39% of U.S. carbon emissions per year and account for 39% of U.S. primary energy use. By incorporating natural lighting and energy efficient HVAC systems, the Center is helping decrease total carbon emission. It also highlights how important it is for all of us to preserve our energy, resources and planet.

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a great opportunity for Concord and New Hampshire to have a facility that can be a national leader in introducing the next generation to space exploration and provide a valuable education resource to both students and teachers in science, math, engineering, and technology. Education is one of the best investments we can make for our children. It provides an increasingly important advantage in the workplace and helps our students to succeed in the 21st Century. Education, and science, math, engineering, and technology education in particular, should be within the reach of all children. The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center helps us towards that goal.

I am honored and humbled by the incredible legacy of these two astronauts from New Hampshire, and congratulate the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center on its grand opening.

A TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST AARON  
DRAKE SANDLIN

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Specialist Aaron Drake Sandlin, a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia and one of the many Americans who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces with honor and valor.

MY SOLDIER—ONLY YESTERDAY

(By T. Maxwell Sandlin)

Only yesterday—the pregnancy test was positive

And your mom's face glowed

Then you were born healthy

And my pride showed—only yesterday.

Only yesterday—late feedings kept us up nights

And you ood and cooed at Christmas lights,  
As in your car seat you saw the sights—only yesterday.

Only yesterday—I snapped your picture

As you slept like a log;

With a little stuffed toy

Called Brownie Dog—only yesterday.

Only yesterday—selling popcorn for the Scouts

Day after day you went all out.

We shed a tear—the both of us,

As you got on that yellow bus—only yesterday.

Only yesterday—crayon artwork on refrigerator

Drawn by the masterpiece that I would later  
Share with the nation in a cause greater;

But, we didn't know it then—only yesterday.

Only yesterday—along a river at a family camp

As you got to know cousins, uncles and aunts,

And those veteran uncles in the firelight glow,

Their WWII stories told—only yesterday.

Only yesterday—we faced the coming teenage years

With their pitfalls, trials and fears.

You grew so fast you stripped your gears—only yesterday!

Only yesterday—driving in your first used car,

The leash got longer

And you drove far

I saw you son as a rising star:

Becoming a man—only yesterday

Only yesterday—you were bringing us papers from Sunday School

And memorizing the Golden Rule.

Hiking these mountains and swimming in pools.

You can't be grown. . . it was only yesterday!!

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Only yesterday—they called your name and you came down  
 You and your brother in your caps and gowns,  
 All those years we couldn't wait.  
 Your mom and I saw you graduate—only yesterday.  
 Only yesterday—as I rehearse  
 Your mother, well, she knew it first  
 That after thinking about it hard  
 You told her you joined the Army National Guard!!  
 She knew I'd be proud and so I was—only yesterday.  
 Only yesterday—you went to boot camp at the fort,  
 And you did not sell yourself short  
 You joined the army at a time of war,  
 Like your family that went on before—only yesterday.  
 All those yesterdays we enjoyed  
 Only yesterday—we learned you were being deployed,  
 To fight those who attempt to destroy. . . .  
 Those yesterdays . . .  
 Only yesterday—I'll say it over and over:  
 Only yesterday—it was me and my Cub Scout  
 And today it was me and my soldier!!!

**HONORING LEONARD AND ADELE  
 BLUMBERG OF BRIDGEWATER,  
 NEW JERSEY**

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Leonard and Adele Blumberg of Bridgewater, New Jersey. For over seven decades, Leonard and Adele Blumberg have worked hard day and night to make a difference in their community and help others.

In fact, there are dozens of New Jersey civic, social welfare, educational, artistic and religious organizations that have benefited from their hard work, dedication and selfless sacrifices to help those in need.

On Sunday, March 15, 2009 Temple Sholom in Bridgewater, New Jersey will honor Leonard and Adele during a special tribute ceremony for their remarkable and enduring lifelong contribution to communities throughout Central New Jersey.

Over the years, the Bloomberg's have helped the Bridgewater Township Welfare Board, Somerset County United Way, People-Care Center, Somerset County Homemaker Service, American Red Cross, Somerset Valley Visiting Nurse Association, Somerset County Heart Association, Somerville Rotary Club, Education Foundation of Bridgewater, Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, The Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center and Temple Sholom.

Because of their exceptional community outreach efforts, Temple Sholom established the Leonard and Adele Blumberg Community Outreach Fund. The fund will be used to augment the Temple's existing and future community outreach programs to aid the needy in Somerset County.

It gives me great pleasure to share the remarkable efforts of Leonard and Adele Blumberg with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.

I am also honored to join Temple Sholom at this special event recognizing their outstanding service to our community.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
 OF MRS. SUE WILK**

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Sue Wilk upon receiving the Women of Westland's 2009 ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award recognizes individuals who have attained and personified the highest level of professional excellence in their business or profession, have devoted time and energy to the community in a meaningful way, and have opened the door of leadership opportunity for women.

Throughout her distinguished career, Sue has been committed to her community. Mrs. Wilk serves as the Department Chair for School Social Workers for the Wayne-Westland Community School District, where she affords her students the means and opportunities to be successful by offering personal and academic guidance. As the first female social worker assigned to the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, she focuses on providing encouragement to young women interested in pursuing careers in non-traditional and male dominated fields.

Sue's community service activities focus on assisting student groups, families, and the underprivileged, as evidenced by her position as Vice-President of the Monroe High School Band Boosters, involvement in the Family Resource Center in Wayne-Westland, and participation as a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army. Mrs. Wilk has accrued numerous accolades for her service including a special recognition from Wayne County acknowledging her efforts on behalf of children. She was also named Ancillary Professional of the Year by Wayne County RESA, and listed as "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's ATHENA Award winner, Sue Wilk, for her dedication to professional excellence and passionate leadership in her community and country.

**HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR  
 HOMES ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Across our country, millions of responsible homeowners are facing foreclosure. Some reports indicate there could be up to 6 million

families currently in danger of losing their homes. Although the foreclosure crisis has not been as pronounced in my state as in some others, North Carolina has seen one of the fastest rises in unemployment in the country, with a rate of 8.2% earlier this year. These job losses will risk damaging neighborhoods and towns across the state by placing more families at risk of defaulting on mortgages. H.R. 1106 will ensure that lending institutions work with borrowers to help keep Americans in their homes to strengthen the housing market, which is critical for our nation's economic recovery.

H.R. 1106 takes steps to address this crisis and help families across the country. This bill will help millions of struggling homeowners re-finance or restructure their mortgages. H.R. 1106 reforms the Hope for Homeowners initiative by lowering fees and providing \$1,000 to servicers that participate. This will make the initiative more attractive to lenders and more effective in reaching the many families seeking help. H.R. 1106 provides "safe harbor" for mortgage lenders so that they can modify mortgages without the threat of lawsuits from the secondary mortgage market. In addition, this bill would protect consumers' savings by permanently increasing the amount of federal deposit insurance savings in banks or credit unions from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

H.R. 1106 also contains a provision that would allow for the modification of some mortgages under the terms of Chapter 13 bankruptcy. Current law allows for a bankruptcy judge to adjust the principal on all secured loans except for those on primary residences. Provisions in H.R. 1106 ensure that people can afford their mortgage. The bill also stipulates that judicial modification should only be employed as a last resort for saving a family's home. Only existing mortgage loans are eligible, and a judge is required to consider whether all other options are exhausted before changing the principal of a home loan. Finally, this bill ensures that if a borrower gets relief through this mortgage relief initiative and then sells their home for a profit, the lender is able to recoup a sizable portion of that profit. This is a key provision to incentivize lenders to work with at-risk borrowers who are seeking help through mortgage modification initiatives.

In order to get our struggling economy back on track, we must address the foreclosure crisis, one of the main factors that precipitated this recession. Not only are foreclosures devastating to individual families, but their effect ripples throughout the economy, hurting manufacturers and construction firms, dropping consumer spending and confidence, and cutting the value of neighboring homes. H.R. 1106 is an important step to deal with this crisis.

I support H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

**EXTEND CERTAIN IMMIGRATION  
 PROGRAMS**

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1127. I oppose